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1933	7590	10/04/2006	EXAMINER	
FRISHAUF, HOLTZ, GOODMAN & CHICK, PC			BITAR, NANCY	
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16TH Floor			PAPER NUMBER	
NEW YORK, NY 10001-7708			2624	

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
	10/669,500		MORIYAMA ET AL.	
	Examiner		Art Unit	
	Nancy Bitar		2624	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 35-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 35-38 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 and 35-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Spelling Errors

1. Claims 2 and 8 are objected to because of the following informalities: There is some spelling errors for instance: "inforamtion of the casete realting ", line 2; the words are spelled "information of the cassette relating". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. **Claims 1,2,6-8,12-13, 40-42,44-46** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanada (US 6,954,767 B1) in view of Rothschild (US 6,678,703 B2).

As to claim 1, Kanada discloses a medical image radiographing system comprising:
a control apparatus (14) for managing a medical image and radiographing order information (examination order information, column 14 line 17) by relating the medical image to the radiographing order information ; and a portable terminal for obtaining the

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radiographing order information from the control apparatus e the portable terminal

comprising :

an obtaining section (image recording modalities 12 and 13)for obtaining identification information (note that the examination order information may include the date of examination, the ID number of a patient, a modality code, a code of the image requesting department status, see column 16, lines 5-8) of a cassette for recording the medical image radiographed based on the radiographing order information obtained from the control apparatus (the system carries out information transmission and processing based on examination order information, column 14 lines 15-17);

a storage (image archiving apparatus 17 or 18) for storing the identification information of the cassette obtained by relating the identification information of the cassette to the radiographing order information, and storing the radiographing order information renewed according to radiographing (image recording modalities 12 and 13 be stored in the image archiving apparatus 17 or 18, column 14 lines 21-23) ;

and a communication section (Radiology department information system 11) for transmitting the radiographing order information and the identification information of the cassette stored in the storage (image acquisition means for acquiring an image from the archiving apparatus 17 or 18, column 15 lines 5-6) ,

the control apparatus (image server 14) comprising: a storage (hard disc 14a) for storing radiographing order information (store the data in an internal hard disc 14a, column 15 lines 1-2); a communication section for receiving the radiographing order information and the identification information of the cassette(when an order for output is received from the workstation 15 or from the terminal (16), column 15 lines 8-10); a determination

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section (image server 14), for determining whether the radiographing order information received agrees with the radiographing order information stored in the storage or not (judges whether or not the combination of the modality and the image requesting department contained in the information sent by the RIS 11 is identical to one of those combinations, column 19, lines 4-17).Furthermore, Kanada clearly teaches a management section (14) for controlling both the radiographing order information stored and the radiographing order information received and the identification information of the cassette thereto, according to a result determined by the determination section (control means having for each of the image display terminals, setting defining whether only the storing means or the storing means as well as the database are searched and for determining where to search according to the setting for each terminal, column 12 lines 6-10) .Kanada teaches the invention as cited above, he does not explicitly teach a portable terminal. Kanada does teach a terminal connected to system as a reference to search and fetch images (note terminal 16 and workstation 15, figure 3). Rothschild et al. teaches a remote interface which can be wireless for medical imaging screening, and lists several devices that might be implemented for the system (figure 1 remote interface 35 and figure 6, column 9 lines 24-62,wireless column 21 lines 1-8).It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have combined the cited references because a portable terminal would provide a more convenient means of analysis. Moreover, Kanada teaches control means having for each of the image display terminals, setting defining whether only the storing means or the storing means as well as the database are searched and for determining where to search according to the setting for each terminal (column 12, lines 6-10) he does not explicitly teach a management section .

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Rothschild et al. teaches a medical image management system that include a medical imaging system, a local image workstation, and means for pushing the electronic image to a remote image viewing, column 12 lines 16-22). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to combine the cited references because the workstation communicates with the medical imaging device such that the electronic record may be transmitted from the medical imaging device and received by the local image workstation (column 12 lines 26-30).

As to claim 2, Kanada teaches the system of claim 1, wherein the management section (14) stores the identification information of the cassette relating to the radiographing order information stored in the storage, when the radiographing order information received agrees with the radiographing order information stored (the image server 14 compares the patient ID number associated with the image data 40 sent from the image recording modalities 12 or 13 with the patient ID number contained in the information of the patient sent from the RIS and determines a delivery destination of the image data 40 in the case where the two patient ID number are identical to each other, column 20 lines 41-48) .

As to claim 6, Kanada teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising an information management apparatus(11) for transmitting radiographing order information to the control apparatus (14), wherein the management section (radiology department information 11) in the control apparatus (image server 14) transmits the radiographing order information and the identification information of the cassette stored in the storage(image archiving apparatus 17 and 18) to the information management apparatus, by controlling the communication section, and the information management apparatus

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comprises: a communication section for receiving the radiographing order information and the identification information of the cassette; and a storage (hard disc 14a) for storing the radiographing order information and the identification information of the cassette received (column 14 lines 1-31).

As to claim 7, claim 7 differ from claim 1 only in that claim 7 is a method claim whereas; claim 1 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 7 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 1 above.

As to claim 8, claim 8 differ from claim 2 only in that claim 8 is a method claim whereas; claim 2 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 8 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 2 above.

As to claim 12, claim 12 differ from claim 6 only in that claim 12 is a method claim whereas; claim 6 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 12 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 6 above.

As to claim 13, this claim differs from claim 7 only in that limitation “storing the identification information received by the control apparatus” is additionally recited. Kanada teaches that limitation in(column 18 lines 35-40).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to

be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. **Claims 3-5,9-11,14-30,43** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanada (US 6,954,767 B1) in view of Rothschild (US 6,678,703 B2), and Stoodley (US 6,661,846 B1).

As to claim 3, The system of claim 1, wherein the control apparatus further comprises: a display control section (medical image display system, column 9 line 38) for displaying a message for confirming whether to renew the radiographing order information stored in the storage or not (note that the medical image display system comprises the workstation comprising display means capable of displaying an image stored in the workstation, judging means for judging whether or not an image need to be displayed is stored in the workstation, and means for sending to the medical server an order for output of the image need to be displayed when the judging means judges that the image is not stored in the workstation, column 9 lines 36-53), and an input control section for inputting an instruction to renew the radiographing order information stored in the storage or not (means for sending to the medical server an order for output of the image need to be displayed when the judging means judges that the image is not stored in the workstation, column 9 lines 36-53) . Moreover, Kanada teaches the management section (14) stores the radiographing order information received in the storage by renewing the radiographing order information stored in the storage to the radiographing order information received, and stores the identification information of the cassette in the storage by relating the identification information of the cassette to the radiographing

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order information (the image server 14 compares the patient ID number associated with the image data 40 sent from the image recording modalities 12 or 13 with the patient ID number contained in the information of the patient sent from the RIS and determines a delivery destination of the image data 40 in the case where the two patient ID number are identical to each other, column 20 lines 41-48) , when the instruction to renew the radiographing order information stored in the storage is inputted (the image server 14 contains means for determining destination of the image taken on the day which determines the delivery destination taken and recorded by an image recording modality 12 and 13, column 20, lines 9-17) .

Although Kanada teaches the invention as cited above, they do not specifically depict a controller and display of confirmation. Kanada teaches means for displaying information on a screen at column 7 lines 41-47, however does not show a controller. Stoodley teaches a display controller 18(see column 6 lines 18-37 and lines 51-56; column 8 lines 16-26) displaying a message for confirming whether to renew the radiographing order information stored in the storage (column 11 lines 60-65 requests confirmation 130).It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to have combines Stoodley with Kanada because the controller would provide the means taught in Kanada for displaying a message. Also display controllers are well known devices in the data processing art.

As to claim 4, this claim differs from claim 3 only in that the limitation “inputs modification to the radiographing order information ” is additionally recited. Note that the modification to the radiographing order information is considered an image taken “on the day” that will be added to the radiographing order information. Thus, Kanada

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teaches that limitation in figure 7 and 8 (column 19 lines 56-67 through column 20 lines 1-59).

As to claim 5, Kanada teaches the system of claim 3, wherein in the control apparatus, the storage (image archiving apparatus 17 or 18) stores a transmission history for indicating whether the radiographing order information is transmitted to the portable terminal or not (past image of a patient which is stored in the image archiving apparatus is necessary or unnecessary, column 2 lines 59-61, column 18 lines 35-49) the display control section (medical image display system, column 9 line 38) displays a message for confirming whether to cancel the radiographing order information received or not, when determining that the radiographing order information received disagrees with the radiographing order information stored in the storage (the medical image display system comprises the workstation comprising display means capable of displaying an image stored in the workstation , judging means for judging whether or not an image need to be displayed is stored in the workstation, and means for sending to the medical server an order for output of the image need to be displayed when the judging means judges that the image is not stored in the workstation, column 9 lines 36-53 note that Stoodley teaches a display controller 18, see column 6 lines 18-37 and lines 51-56, column 8 lines 16-26).In addition, Kanada teaches the input control section inputs an instruction to cancel the radiographing order information received or not, and the management section transmits the instruction to cancel the radiographing order information received to the portable terminal by controlling the communication section, and stores the transmission history of the radiographing order information stored,

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renewed to be not transmitted in the storage, when the instruction to cancel the radiographing order information received is inputted , and in the portable terminal (means for sending to the medical server an order for output of the image need to be displayed when the judging means judges that the image is not stored in the workstation, column 9 lines 36-53, note that when the image is renewed it is not stored in the workstation), the communication section (the radiology department information system 11) receives the instruction to cancel the radiographing order information transmitted from the control apparatus, and the storage deletes the radiographing order information corresponding to the instruction to cancel the radiographing order information received (past-image acquisition condition can be added or deleted by a user as required, column 15 lines 66-67) .

As to claim 9, claim 9 differ from claim 3 only in that claim 9 is a method claim whereas; claim 3 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 9 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 3 above.

As to claim 10, claim 10 differ from claim 3 only in that claim 10 is a method claim whereas; claim 3 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 10 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 3 above.

As to claim 11, claim 11 differ from claim 5 only in that claim 11 is a method claim whereas; claim 5 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 11 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 5 above.

As to claim 14 this claim differs from claim 1 only in that limitation “an editing section for editing the radiographing order information stored in the storage” is additionally recited. Stoodley teaches that modifications or substitutions may be

made to the information transfer system (column 16 lines 59-67 i.e. Figure 6A shows age modification which is a category of the radiographing order information).

As to claim 15, teaches the system of claim 14, wherein the control apparatus further comprises *a determination section* for determining whether the radiographing order information received agrees with the radiographing order information stored in the storage or not (delivery judging means for judging whether the delivery of the image stored in the storing means is necessary or unnecessary based on information regarding medical examination order, column 5, lines 6-10), *the communication section* (Radiology department information system 11) transmits a message for confirming whether to renew the radiographing order information stored in the storage or not to the portable terminal (Stoodley, column 11 lines 60-65 requests confirmation 130), and receives an instruction to renew the radiographing order information stored in the storage or not from the portable terminal, when the radiographing order information received disagrees with the radiographing order information stored in the storage (Stoodley, if confirmation is receives 132, the new data is stored 140, (Stoodley, column 11, lines 63-65),

and the management section (14) stores the radiographing order information received in the storage by renewing the radiographing order information stored in the storage to the radiographing order information received, and stores the identification information of the cassette in the storage by relating the identification information of the cassette to the radiographing order information (the image server 14 compares the patient

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ID number associated with the image data 40 sent from the image recording modalities 12 or 13 with the patient ID number contained in the information of the patient sent from the RIS and determines a delivery destination of the image data 40 in the case where the two patient ID number are identical to each other, column 20 lines 41-48), when receiving the instruction to renew the radiographing order information stored in the storage from the portable terminal (column 20, lines 9-17) .

As to claim 16, this claim differs from claim 15 only in that limitation “not to renew the radiographing order information” is additionally recited. Stoodley et al teaches that limitation in (column 11, line 42-65)

As to claim 17, is identical to claim 5 and the prior art meets the limitation for claim 17 for the same reasons as described above with respect to claim 5.

As to claim 18, is identical to claim 6 and the prior art meets the limitation for claim 18 for the same reasons as described above with respect to claim 6.

As to claim 19, claim 19 differ from claim 14 only in that claim 19 is a method claim whereas; claim 14 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 19 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 14 above.

As to claim 20, claim 20 differ from claim 15 only in that claim 20 is a method claim whereas; claim 15 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 20 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 15 above.

As to claim 21, claim 21 differ from claim 16 only in that claim 21 is a method claim whereas; claim 16 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 21 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 16 above.

As to claim 22, claim 22 differ from claim 17 only in that claim 22 is a method claim whereas; claim 17 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 22 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 17 above.

As to claim 23, is identical to claim 12 and the prior art meets the limitation for claim 23 for the same reasons as described above with respect to claim 12.

As to claim 24, claim 24 differ from claim 14 only in that claim 24 is a method claim whereas; claim 14 is an apparatus claim. Thus, claim 24 is analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claim 14 above.

As to claim 25, Kanada et al. teaches a medical image radiographing system comprising: a control apparatus (14) for holding radiographing order information in a readable state, and transmitting the radiographing order information to an external apparatus(laser printer 19, figure 1) according to a reading instruction; and a portable terminal(16) connectable to the control apparatus through a communication network(10, column 14 lines 1-3)), the portable terminal comprising: a storage(hard disc 14a) for storing the radiographing order information(medical examination order, column 9, lines 1-21) obtained from the control apparatus; a display (medical image display system, column 9 line 38) for displaying an addition input screen for inputting to add radiographing order information when permitted doctor identification information is inputted; an addition processing section for adding the radiographing order information inputted on the addition input screen to the radiographing order information stored in the storage(delivery destination based on a destination determining standard which is one of or any combination of a name of an image requesting department s name of an image requesting doctor an image recording modality and a photographing menu, column 7,

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lines 10-15); and a transmission section for transmitting the radiographing order information added to the control apparatus through the communication network(an order for output is sent from the separated terminal on the day of recording, column 8, lines 28-29).

The limitation of claim 26-27 has been addressed above except for the following: “an addition processing section for adding the radiographing order information received in the radiographing order information “Kanada teaches that limitation in (the past-image acquisition condition can be added or deleted by a user as required, note: column 15 lines 65-67).

The limitation of claim 28 has been addressed above except for the following: “the system comprises information management apparatus”. Kanada teaches that limitation in (image server 14 comprises a computer system, column 24, line 47-59)

The limitation of claim 29 has been addressed above except for the following: X-ray radiographing apparatus, which is movable, and radiographs with X-ray. Rothschild teaches that limitation in (column 9, line 28-32, X-ray device).

The limitation of claim 30 has been addressed above except for the following: “A portable terminal capable of being connected to a control apparatus”. Kanada teaches that limitation in (figure 11,116 is connected to 114).

As to claim 35-37, has been addressed above except for the following: “an addition processing section for adding the radiographing order information received in the radiographing order information “Kanada teaches that limitation in (the past-image acquisition condition can be added or deleted by a user as required, note: column 15 lines 65-67).

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As to claim 38, Kanada teaches the method of claim 35, further comprising displaying the radiographing history information inputted in the control apparatus (the workstation such as the diagnostic workstation 15 in the image display system shown in figure 3,5,7 or 9 preferably comprises the display means capable of displaying the image stored in the workstation, column 23 lines 59-62).

The limitation of claim 39 has been addressed above except for the following: “control section for controlling transmission of the radiographing result from the portable terminal to the control apparatus on the basis of a determination result determined by the determination section”. Kanada teaches this limitation in (column 5, lines 6-10).

As to claim 40, Kanada teaches the system of claim 39, further comprising at least one of the control apparatus connected through a network (image recording modalities 112, and 113,an image server 114 as a medical image search apparatus 117,118,and 119,a laser printer 120,and the like are connected to the network 110, see column 24,lines 22-27).

As to claim 41, Kanada teaches the system of claim 40, further comprising at least one of the portable terminal capable of communicating with the at least one of the control apparatus through the network (image recording modalities 112, and 113,an image server 114 as a medical image search apparatus 117,118,and 119,a laser printer 120,and the like are connected to the network 110, see column 24,lines 22-27).

As to claim 42, Kanada teaches the system of claim 40, further comprising at least one of the portable terminal capable of communicating with a specific control apparatus among the at least one of the control apparatus through the network (image recording modalities 112, and 113,an image server 114 as a medical image search apparatus

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117,118,and 119,a laser printer 120,and the like are connected to the network 110, see column 24,lines 22-27).

The limitation of claim 43 has been addressed above except for the following: “A medical image radiographing system comprising: a radiographing order information generating apparatus for generating radiographing order information”. Kanada teaches that limitation in (column 14, lines 32-37, note that the workstation 15 carry out image processing to generate an image appropriate for diagnosis)

As to claim 44, Kanada teaches the system of claim 43, further comprising at least one of the control apparatus connected to the radiographing order information generating apparatus through a network (image recording modalities 112, and 113,an image server 114 as a medical image search apparatus 117,118,and 119,a laser printer 120,and the like are connected to the network 110, see column 24,lines 22-27).

As to claim 45, Kanada teaches the system of claim 44, further comprising at least one of the portable terminal capable of communicating with the at least one of the control apparatus through the network (image recording modalities 112, and 113,an image server 114 as a medical image search apparatus 117,118,and 119,a laser printer 120,and the like are connected to the network 110, see column 24,lines 22-27).

As to claim 46, Kanada teaches the system of claim 44, further comprising at least one of the portable terminal capable of communicating with a specific control apparatus among the at least one of the control apparatus through the network (image recording modalities 112, and 113,an image server 114 as a medical image search apparatus 117,118,and 119,a laser printer 120,and the like are connected to the network 110, see column 24,lines 22-27).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 31 -34 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: None of the prior art discloses a medical image radiographing system that contains a portable terminal comprising two control sections and two communication section that communicates directly with the portable terminal. The closest prior art that is cited include US 6,611,846.Stoodley et al., US 6,678,703 B2 Rothschild et al., and US 6,954,767, which disclose various inventions to obtain related medical information sufficiently, thus claims 31-38 are allowable over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Blum et al. (US-6, 405,165 B1) is cited to teach a recording unit contains a cassette where it stores the physicians report.

Motoki et al. (US-6, 920,465 B2) is cited to teach a radiographing apparatus including an input section which patient and radiographing information are stored in a memory.

Rothschild et al. (US-6, 678,703) teaches a central data management system that includes the storage and transmission of electronic records containing medical images.

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Shiibashi et al. (7,092,970 B2) is cited to teach a portable radiographing apparatus for performing medical radiographing at a bedside of a patient

Moriyama et al. (2004/0086164 A1) is cited to teach storage section for storing the radiographing order information and an assigning section for assigning an operator for performing radiography and transmitting the radiographing order information to the portable terminal.

Inquiries

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nancy Bitar whose telephone number is 571-270-1041. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (7:30a.m. to 5:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Mancuso can be reached on 571-272-7695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Nancy Bitar

09/28/2006



JOSEPH MANCUSO
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER